

## Varieties

Prayer is the essence of the soul.

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nership with a false friend, who used the money to obtain an enormous sum of money, with which, and all the other available funds, he absconded, and left his associate an utter bankrupt. Thus, absolutely beggared, John Hallam, by the aid of a distant relative, managed to reach the wilds of Texas, where his sole means of subsistence, and that of his family, was the chase.

As he moved on over the green prairie, the face of the unhappy hunter gradually grew darker, until it looked awful as the angry gloom of a thunder-storm, and he muttered to himself, "I did wrong, but wrong to my wife and children. I ought to have shot the base swindler like a wolf, and taken by force the plunder which he had acquired by cunning. But that would have been called robbery and murder. What then? Has he not wrested from me the strength and staff of life? Is not the beloved partner of my bosom now dying by inches? Is not my daily doom worse than the brief agonies of the most cruel execution?"

With these sad and gloomy reflections, the pioneer continued his journey until he arrived at a small pine-log grocery on the banks of the Brazos, where the old San Antonio road crosses the river.

"I will enter," he said to himself in a mocking whisper, "and take one glass of the fool's wine, and then I will follow the swindler to the place where he has hidden his plunder. I have heard that it has power to drive away sorrow, but if it can cure me, the devil himself need not despair!"

Hallam approached the counter, and calling for brandy, poured out a tumbler almost full, and swallowed it at a draught. He then passed the wine to the proprietor, and followed him to the prairie, where the game was said to be very abundant. But he had scarcely set his foot on this unfenced meadow of nature, gleaming with the most brilliant flowers, when an object arrested his attention with a feeling of strange fascination. He saw on the distant verge of the blue horizon, a single horseman, apparently advancing along the road, towards him, and a sudden impulse determined him to wait for the arrival of the stranger.

Accordingly, he sat down on a bed of violets beneath an immense live oak, which stood alone in the field of radiant blossoms, and pondered, as was now his wont, on the past, the present, and the future. At the instant a strong breeze sprung up, the wind sighed and sung mournfully through the evergreen branches above his head, and waved the long moss like the flowing hair of some gray-headed wizard, whispering unearthly spells. But the gloomy hunter in his profound abstraction, heard nothing but the voice of old memory, and the funeral dirge of departed days—until the traveler had come within five paces of the spot where he reclined, when, raising his eyes, he uttered a horrible cry of mingled rage and astonishment, and springing to his feet, cocked and presented his rifle.

"Don't shoot, Hallam! for God's sake, don't shoot!" exclaimed the other, in accents of the greatest terror.

"Hugh Wheeler!" said the hunter, in a voice, clear, ringing, and dreadfully calm; "you made us a beggar, and for that, I must have your blood!"

"Holy Heaven! do you intend to murder me?" gasped the former partner, with lips white as those of a sheeted corpse.

"No," replied Hallam, in appling tones; "if you have manhood enough in your felon's soul to fight me on equal terms; but nevertheless, I have sworn to follow you to the gates of the Olympian gods, while his happy visage and merry brown eyes contrasted strongly with the stern and forbidding aspect of the parent."

On the opposite side of the board appeared a young girl about fifteen years of age, and never did that divine sense of sweet virginity glow so brightly on the face of a human being. There were some features of such rare beauty, that no pen can describe their peculiar character, and no language has neither analogy nor likeness in the similitudes of common life, and so it was with the pioneer's daughter.

Her form had already attained the full development of robust health, and her features were of a rare beauty, and her eyes were of a deep, clear blue, and her hair was of a golden brown, and her skin was of a fair complexion, and her figure was of a graceful and elegant form, and her voice was of a sweet and melodious tone, and her manners were of a refined and polished character, and her whole appearance was of a rare and beautiful beauty.

"I cannot help you, for I have not fifty dollars about my person,"

"We will soon ascertain the fact," remarked the hunter, as he advanced to examine the bulky saddle-bags of his foe.

But the latter, alarmed as much, or even more, for his life, resisted the intended robbery, and fiercely, "you shall not touch my property; I will have you hung for highway robbery!"

"For murder, rather!" roared Hallam, as he seized the other by the throat, and dragged him to the ground.

Then, a brief, but terrible struggle ensued, in which the hunter, with his long knife, saved the smiling man, and the all-seeing eye of the omnipotent God! The enemies swayed to and fro, now in the air, and anon, on the earth; they rolled over and over, first one uppermost, and quickly the other, like two angry serpents in mortal coil. But the hunter never once forgot his deadly weapon, and his iron, vice-like grip, soon decided the contest.

Nevertheless, he determined to defy the fatal specter, and with it to the bitter end, as when it inhabited the body. He opened a fine farm, built elegant houses, bought cattle and slaves, and employed all his time in toil and activity, but ever the shape of moving specter haunted all his hours, and the pale eyes watched alike his labor and repose.

At last, the Revolution broke out, and shook the land with the tread of an earthquake. Foremost in every glory battle-field, rushed the reckless, daring Captain Hallam, and he courted death for his bloody bride; but still, wherever he flew the form of floating vapor, and the uninviting eyes, flashed before him, and fought in his front.

The war was over, the lone star ascended to its bright place in the constellation of nations, and the haunted hero returned to the bosom of his family. But now the optical illusion slowly assumed a more dreadful appearance. The white cloud grew denser, and the eyes more life-like, until every limb of the body, every feature of the face, was revealed. There could no more be any doubt—it was the spirit of the murdered Hugh Wheeler!

By degrees, the phantom became fiercer and menacing, and commenced diminishing the old distance between the dead and the living. At the rapid rate of the foot every day. In half an hour from the firing of the first shot, all was lost. The fugitives, cut off from the fort by the flanking party of Indians, fled away their arms and fled towards the broad river. Some hid behind the trees, and others were taken prisoners and reserved for torture.

Of the three hundred and twenty who marched out that afternoon, two hundred were killed in the fight or the pursuit, or were massacred during the night. Six captains led their companies into action, and were killed at the head of their men. The rest of the force, after a long and hard fight, galloped after the fugitives, but overtook Rufus Bennett, a lad of seventeen, hotly pursued by two Indians, one of whom was close upon him. The youth laid hold of the long tail of his commander's horse to hold him in his flight. The pursuers kept at their speed and hardly lost ground. They were now within a few rods of the fugitives, and the latter were still crying, "Just then Butler caught sight of Richard Inman, one of the best shots in the valley, who had fallen behind on the march, and had not been engaged in the fight. "Inman," he shouted, "shoot that Indian!"

The rifle rose in a great measure by keeping them in dark, confined stables, and shading their eyes with harness blinders. Dark, ill-ventilated cellar stables are quite common; this stupid practice should be abolished, because such stables are very detrimental to the health of these noble animals. All stables should be airy, well-ventilated, and provided with windows to afford abundant light, and should, also, be frequently whitewashed. The horse is a native of dry, sunny regions, and requires to be kept dry and warm in order to attain to the greatest perfection.

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This was on the right. But the left was terribly galled by the fire of the Indians who lay hidden in the bushes, completely outflanking us. Dennison ordered his men to change their position, falling back so as to present their front to the enemy. The order was misunderstood to be a command to retreat, and the result was a confusion. It was then that Butler endeavored to restore confidence. "Don't leave me, my children," he cried, riding between the files, "and the victory will be ours!" It was too late. The Indians sprang from their covert in overwhelming numbers, and rushed on the wavering ranks with fearful yell.

No animal, particularly a young one, like a frosty grass, while frozen; therefore, they do not eat it till the frost melts away, and they are quite as well in the stable, with a little sweet hay before them, which they will readily eat at this time of the year, and all the better as a change of diet. We have seen a fine lot of calves, lambs, and colts in nice condition, from being left out through a series of frosty nights, and October and November storms, with plenty of grass about them, run down their flesh wretchedly, from exposure alone; and when it is so easy to prevent it, care should be taken to do so. A well summered animal, young or old, should go into winter quarters thriving; then, if well fed in winter, it will keep thriving. Otherwise, it stunts, and it takes extra food to start it again, and, perhaps, loses half a season's growth, just for the want of a little painstaking care. Now is a capital time, too, to domesticate the young things, if they have been any way shy before. Carry them good little odds and ends of your garden stuff, such as beets, carrots, turnips, parsnips, cabbage leaves, and pumpkins. Feed them from the hand, give them a little salt; let them become familiar with, and love you. A tame animal will winter twice as easy as a wild one, and the pleasure and profit of your stock is increased wonderfully over the kick and cuff, "get out of the way," and "stupid" fashion of some barbarians that we could mention.—American Agriculturist.

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